WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method of aggregating and maintaining data in a system having at

2   least a first and a second platform generating data, comprising:

3   receiving initial data from said first and said second platforms;

4   generating a staging table based on said initial data; and

5   associating standardized data with said initial data.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said associating includes generating a

2   cross-reference table correlating said standardized data with initial data from

3   said first platform and correlating said standardized data with said initial data

4   from said second platform.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving updated data from said first and said second platforms.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2   comparing said updated data with data in said staging table.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2   determining if said updated data includes new data.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein said determining indicates that said

2   updated data includes new data, the method further comprising:

3   setting a flag in said staging table;

4   comparing said updated data with said standardized data; and

5   determining if said standardized data should be updated to reflect said

6   updated data.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said determining indicates that said

2   standardized data should be updated, the method further comprising:

3   inserting said updated data as a new record in said standardized data;

4   establishing a cross reference between said new record and said initial

5 data.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

2   resetting said flag.

1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein said determining indicates that said

2 standardized data should not be updated, the method further comprising:

3   updating a cross-reference table correlating said standardized data

4 with said updated data.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein said determining indicates that said

2 updated data does not include new data, the method further comprising:

3   determining if said updated data includes modified data;

4   setting a flag in said staging table to indicate that said updated data

5 includes modified data; and

6   determining whether said standardized data should be updated.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said determining indicates that said

2 standardized data should be updated, the method further comprising:

3   updating said standardized data; and

4   resetting said flag in said staging table.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said determining indicates that said

2 standardized data should not be updated, the method further comprising:

3   notifying said platform that said updated data has been rejected.

1 13. A system for aggregating and maintaining data, comprising:

2   a first platform having an application program generating first input

3 data;

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4   a second platform having an application program generating second

5   input data; and

6   an aggregator comprising a processor, a comunications device in

7   communication with said processor, adapted to receive said first and second

8   input data, and a memory unit in communication with said processor and

9   storing a program, wherein said processor is operative with said program to

10   compare said first input data with data in a staging table;

11   determine if said first input data are different from standardized

12   data stored in said memory unit; and

13   add said first input data to said standardized data if a

14   determination is made that said first input data are new.

1   14.   The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is further operative

2   with said program to:

3   update said standardized data if a determination is made that

4   said first input data are modified.

1   15.   The system of claim 13, wherein said processor is further operative

2   with said program to:

3   compare said second input data with data in a staging table;

4   determine if said second input data are different from

5   standardized data stored in said memory unit; and

6   add said second input data to said standardized data if a

7   determination is made that said second input data are new.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, wherein said processer is further operative

2   with said program to:

3   update said standardized data if a determination is made that

4   said first input data are modified.

1   17.   An apparatus for aggregating and maintaining data across platforms,

2   comprising:

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3   means for receiving initial data from a first and a second platform;

4   means for generating a staging table based on said initial data; and

5   means for associating standardized data with said initial data.

1   18. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions

2   for performing steps, comprising:

3   receiving initial data from a first and a second platform;

4   generating a staging table based on said initial data; and

5   associating standardized data with said initial data.

1   19.   A method for aggregating and maintaining data from a first and a

2   second platform, comprising:

3   generating a staging table based on data from said first and said

4   second platforms;

5   generating a set of standardized data;

6   generating a cross-reference table cross-referencing data from said

7   first and said second platforms with said standardized data;

8   receiving updated data from said first and said second platforms;

9   identifying new data in said updated data;

10   updating said standardized data to include said new data; and

11   updating said cross-reference table to include said new data.

1   20.   The method of claim 19, further comprising:

2   identifying modified data in said updated data; and

3   updating said standardized data to reflect said modified data.